

Message

From: Nitsch, Chad [Nitsch.Chad@epa.gov]
Sent: 7/9/2021 3:42:17 PM
To: Seneca, Roy [Seneca.Roy@epa.gov]
CC: White, Terri-A [White.Terri-A@epa.gov]; Landis, Jeffrey [Landis.Jeffrey@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: logo
Attachments: Children's Health and Lead Resources 7-9-2021.docx

Flag: Follow up

Roy,

I haven't received the draft press release from WVDHHR. I did, however, offer to WVDHHR some (not all) the resources sent by OCTEA and WD. Assuming DHHR wants to pursue a joint press release, I'll ask you to further down select. For reference, today's proposed release was couched as an update to this: <https://dhhr.wv.gov/News/Pages/DHHR-and-Clarksburg-Water-System-to-Study-Older-Homes-with-Lead-Service-Lines.aspx>

Chad Nitsch
Director, Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency – Region 3 (Mid-Atlantic: WV, VA, PA, MD, DE, DC, and 7 federally recognized tribes)
215-814-5434



From: Nitsch, Chad
Sent: Friday, July 9, 2021 11:32 AM
To: Adler, Allison C <Allison.C.Adler@wv.gov>
Cc: Holstein, Jessica N <Jessica.N.Holstein@wv.gov>
Subject: RE: logo

Allison,

As you may imagine, there is an abundance of lead resources. If it's easier, I'm happy to select a couple of these once I see the press release.

Chad Nitsch
Director, Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency – Region 3 (Mid-Atlantic: WV, VA, PA, MD, DE, DC, and 7 federally recognized tribes)
215-814-5434



From: Adler, Allison C <Allison.C.Adler@wv.gov>
Sent: Friday, July 9, 2021 10:49 AM
To: Nitsch, Chad <Nitsch.Chad@epa.gov>; Holstein, Jessica N <Jessica.N.Holstein@wv.gov>
Subject: logo

Hi Chad: Can you send us a logo that we can develop a joint letterhead for the press release? Thank!

Allison C. Adler
Director of Communications
West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources



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From: Nitsch, Chad <Nitsch.Chad@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 12:32 PM
To: Adler, Allison C <Allison.C.Adler@wv.gov>
Subject: [External] RE: [External] Media Request - WV News - DHHR/Clarksburg Water System Study

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Thank you.

Chad Nitsch
Director, Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency – Region 3 (Mid-Atlantic: WV, VA, PA, MD, DE, DC, and 7 federally recognized tribes)
215-814-5434



From: Adler, Allison C <Allison.C.Adler@wv.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 11:53 AM
To: Nitsch, Chad <Nitsch.Chad@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: [External] Media Request - WV News - DHHR/Clarksburg Water System Study

Allison C. Adler
Director of Communications
West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources



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From: Adler, Allison C

Sent: Friday, July 2, 2021 4:59 PM

To: Charles Young <cyoung@theet.com>

Cc: DHHR Communications <DHHRCommunications@wv.gov>

Subject: RE: [External] Media Request - WV News - DHHR/Clarksburg Water System Study

Charles:

Please see below answers to your questions.

When and where did the confirmatory sampling take place?

Confirmation samples were collected on Feb. 10, 2021 by staff from BPH's Office of Environmental Health Services' (OEHS) Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program at one of the homes that is now unoccupied and is for sale. On May 20, 2021, confirmation samples were taken inside a second residence of one of the homes found to be affected.

Staff from the Environmental Engineering Division of OEHS and Clarksburg Water System staff collected additional confirmation samples on May 12, 2021 and June 16, 2021 at the meter of those affected homes to determine if the source of lead was internal plumbing or part of the public water distribution system. Samples were also collected on June 16, 2021 at the water treatment plant and fire hydrants near the affected homes.

What led to the samples being taken in the first place?

For children diagnosed with an elevated lead level in their bloodstream, an Environmental Lead Assessments is conducted to identify all possible sources of lead in the child's primary environment. Environmental Lead Assessments are complex investigations into the complete environment of a child with an elevated blood lead level. The investigation includes an inspection of the child's primary residence, sampling and analysis of any potential lead containing materials, exploration of the family's hobbies and parent's work situations, eating habits, cleaning methods/frequency, and the child's hand hygiene habits among other things.

Can you be more specific about what "above the EPA's action level" means and what the sampling showed?

For drinking water, EPA has set an action level for lead at 15 micrograms per liter. Under the EPA Safe Drinking Water Act regulations, when the 90th percentile lead sample result for a public water system is above 15 micrograms per liter, the water system must take action. These samples were not collected as part of the EPA Safe Drinking Water Act by the public water system, however, several of the results showed lead levels were near or above the action level, therefore, OEHS is requiring the public water system to take action while the situation is under investigation to determine if the problem is isolated or wide-spread.

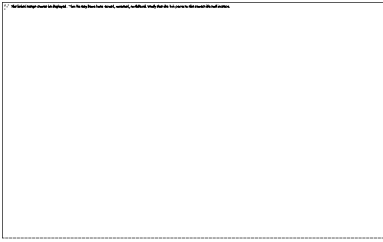
Have there been any reported illnesses in the area related to lead pipes?

There are children in the Clarksburg area with elevated blood lead levels, however, the Environmental Lead Assessments that have been conducted have shown multiple exposure sources in those children's environments. None of those exposures can be tied only to the drinking water.

Allison C. Adler

Director of Communications

West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources



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From: Charles Young <cyoung@theet.com>

Sent: Friday, July 2, 2021 12:39 PM

To: DHHR Communications <DHHRCommunications@wv.gov>

Subject: [External] Media Request - WV News - DHHR/Clarksburg Water System Study

CAUTION: External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify sender.

Hello,

This is Charles Young with WV News in Clarksburg. I was hoping to be connected with someone who could provide some additional information about the press release we received earlier on the DHHR/Clarksburg Water System lead study.

Thanks!

— Charles Young

Senior Staff Writer

304-626-1447 (o)

304-844-8664 (c)